

Black Mountain College Newsletter

Number 15

October 1941

Ninth year begins in new quarters

The opening of Black Mountain's ninth year on September 22 found the College at its permanent home on the Lake Eden property. At a general meeting held that evening, the College community—seventy students and twenty teachers—heard Robert Wunsch, Rector, and Josef Albers, speak of the plans for the year and of some of the ideals on which the College is based.

"Black Mountain is a liberal arts college", said Mr Wunsch. "The emphasis here, however, has not been solely on the getting of knowledge as in so many liberal arts schools, but on learning to live harmoniously with other people as well . . . Knowledge is a way of life, and life is richer than any of its ways . . . An educated man is only a spectator of life. A man with an education is a unit of life and light. We shall continue to try to wed knowledge to living . . . We shall try to learn all we can intellectually about the Southern Negro, but at the same time learn to live beautifully with the people in the kitchen who serve us; we shall study seriously and deeply the psychology of the child but not forget to apply this learning in our relationships with the children about the College . . . We must learn the responsible use of freedom, the willingness to hear diverse opinions debated and weighed within the College; that inner devotion to the common welfare that

makes coercion needless, the voluntary assumption of the duties that democracy entails."

Mr Albers spoke briefly of his year away from Black Mountain. "I taught at a place proud of a three centuries' tradition. But it was not discouraging for me to compare its status after three hundred years with the status of another educational place which has existed for only eight years, an institution in which I believe. I remained hopeful in spite of six millions of books compared with only eight thousand, despite seventy students and twenty teachers on the one side, compared with thousands of the one and hundreds of the other . . .

"We finally are on our own grounds. And in face of the architectural works of the last year we see that the sacrifices and hard work of both students and teachers have been worthwhile. Here I hope we will continue our belief in our aims and our enthusiasms for our work.

"Since our job here is education, which means personal growth—of teachers as well as of students—and since life means change, our aim is forward. It must be like real science and art which naturally strive for more, namely for the future.

"What we should carry on, I think, is our belief that behaviour and so-